

Is It Possible to Unknowingly Embody Antichrist-like Behaviors?

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The Bible warns us that in the last days, many will come claiming to be Christ, deceiving many ([Matthew 24:5](#)). However, these false Christs are not always obvious; they do not always boldly declare themselves as Christ. Instead, some take Christ's position indirectly through their actions, leading others astray from the truth of the Gospel. Understanding this subtle deception is vital for Christians today to guard their faith against those who claim to have power that belongs to Christ alone.

The Apostle John provides a clear definition of an antichrist, stating, "Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son" ([1 John 2:22](#)). This definition extends beyond those who verbally deny Jesus' identity to those whose actions undermine His authority and role as Savior and Lord.

In contemporary Christianity, some indirectly assume Christ's position by portraying themselves as "deliverers" through acts of such as "delivery." However, this contradicts Scripture, which teaches that true deliverance comes through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ alone. The New Testament consistently links freedom from sin and demonic oppression with the preaching of the Gospel and repentance, as evidenced in [Matthew 4:17](#) and [Acts 2:38](#). When individuals claim to deliver others from demonic powers without guiding them to Christ, they usurp His position and imply the insufficiency of His work. This contradicts Scripture's teaching about Christ's all-sufficient power and authority, as stated in [Colossians 2:9-10](#) and [Hebrews 7:25](#). By claiming to deliver or heal independently of Christ's work, individuals not only mislead people but also deny the sufficiency of Christ's redemption, as described in [Colossians 1:13-14](#).

Another form of indirectly assuming Christ's position occurs when individuals claim authority over spiritual matters that belong solely to Jesus. This includes claiming exclusive access to divine revelation, blessings, or miracles, thereby positioning themselves as mediators between God and humanity. The Bible clearly states in [1 Timothy 2:5](#) that Christ is the only mediator. Such claims challenge Christ's unique role and divert trust away from Him.

Some religious leaders also claim to offer forgiveness through sacraments or rituals without directing people to Christ's atoning sacrifice. This practice contradicts biblical teaching and dangerously positions human intermediaries in Christ's place. Scripture teaches that forgiveness comes only through Christ's blood ([Ephesians 1:7](#)). Suggesting alternative paths to forgiveness undermines the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice and challenges His authority. As [Acts 4:12](#) affirms, salvation and forgiveness are found in Christ alone, not through any human intermediary or ritual.

Some individuals claim to have the power to control life and death, either through blessings, curses, or other means. Such claims are contrary to Scripture, which states that "The Lord brings death and gives life; He sends some down to Sheol, and He raises others up" ([1 Samuel 2:6](#)). Only God, through Jesus Christ, has authority over life and death ([Revelation 1:18](#)). To claim otherwise is to assume a position of ultimate authority that belongs solely to Christ, again reflecting an antichrist attitude.

Another subtle way people often indirectly embody antichrist-like behaviors is by leading others to rely on human wisdom or philosophy instead of God's Word. The Apostle Paul cautioned against this, saying, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ" ([Colossians 2:8](#)). When leaders or teachers elevate their own ideas, traditions, or interpretations above the clear teachings of Scripture, they effectively position themselves as authorities superior to Christ and His Word.

Another concerning trend is the adoption of titles and names that rightfully belong to Christ alone. Many self-proclaimed ministers and religious leaders give themselves grandiose titles that usurp Christ's unique position. For instance, the title "Reverend," (some even go further to titles like "The Most Reverend") meaning "worthy of reverence," is problematic because in Scripture, only God is described as reverend. As [Psalm 111:9](#) states, "He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awe-inspiring is his name." Similarly, titles like "His Majesty," "His Eminence," and "His Holiness" imply attributes and positions that Scripture reserves for God alone. These titles suggest supreme authority, high rank, and absolute holiness, respectively. However, the Bible teaches that such distinctions belong solely to God. As we read in [Isaiah 6:3](#), the seraphim cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth." By adopting these titles, individuals are indirectly claiming attributes and positions that Scripture reserves for God alone, potentially diverting worship and reverence from Christ to mere humans. This practice aligns with the theme of our article, "Is It Possible to Unknowingly Embody Antichrist-like Behaviors?" as it demonstrates how even well-intentioned religious leaders can inadvertently assume positions that belong to Christ alone.

The Bible calls us to be vigilant and discerning, recognizing that not all who claim to serve Christ do so in truth. Jesus Himself warned, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven" ([Matthew 7:21](#)). True discipleship involves following Christ alone, recognizing Him as the only source of salvation, deliverance, and authority. In today's culture of self-improvement and personal development, there's a tendency to promote self-reliance and inner strength as the primary means of overcoming life's challenges. While personal growth is important, an overemphasis on self-reliance can inadvertently diminish the need for Christ's grace and power in our lives. This approach subtly contradicts the biblical teaching of complete dependence on Christ, as expressed in [John 15:5](#): "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."

By promoting self-sufficiency without acknowledging our fundamental need for Christ, we may unknowingly embody an antichrist-like attitude that elevates human capability over divine grace. To avoid this, we must always emphasize the balance between personal responsibility and reliance on Christ, recognizing that true strength and transformation come through His power working in us, not merely through our own efforts.

By remaining rooted in Scripture and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can discern those who seek to take Christ's position, whether directly or indirectly, and remain faithful to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

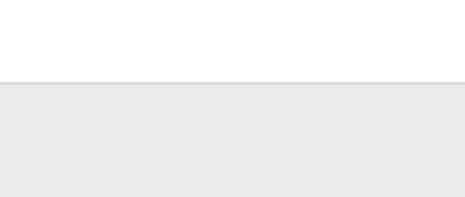
This discernment helps us navigate the fine line between healthy personal growth and unintentional self-reliance that may lead us away from complete dependence on Christ.

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